



Date: 01<sup>st</sup> July, 2013

**MINUTES OF THE 07<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL ON 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2013**

The 07<sup>th</sup> Academic Council of Vignan University met on 26.06.2013 at 10.30 am in the Srujana Seminar Hall with Dr.M.S.C.Bose, Vice-Chancellor in the Chair.

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**Members attended:**

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Dr. M.S.C.Bose             | Vice-Chancellor – Chairman              |
| 2. Dr.Shanthi Swaroop         | Chief Technology Officer, Uurmi Systems |
| 3. Sri.G.Sridhar              | President and CEO of Paradigm, IT       |
| 4. Mr.D.Rama Krishna          | MD, Efftronics Systems Pvt. Ltd.        |
| 5. Dr.K.Babu Rao              | Director, NAVAYUGA INFOTECH             |
| 6. Dr.V.Madhusudhan Rao       | Director, DET                           |
| 7. Dr.K.V.Radha Kishan        | Member                                  |
| 8. Dr.R.Venkatnadh            | Member                                  |
| 9. Dr.B.Seetharamanjaneyulu   | Member                                  |
| 10. Dr.A.Srinivasa Prasad     | Member                                  |
| 11. Dr.K.Phanendra Kumar      | Member                                  |
| 12. Prof. K.V.Kirshna Kishore | Member                                  |
| 13. Mr.E.Srinivas             | Member                                  |
| 14. Dr. M. Srinivasulu        | Member                                  |
| 15. Dr.N.Veeranjaneyulu       | Member                                  |
| 16. Mr.P.Ashok Kumar          | Member                                  |
| 17. Mr.A.Raghu Nath           | Member                                  |
| 18. Dr.B.M.Rao                | Member                                  |
| 19. Mr.G.Srinivasa Rao        | Member                                  |
| 20. Dr.M.M.Naidu              | Member                                  |

21.	Dr.S.Krupanidhi	Member
22.	Dr.Avireni Srnivasulu	Member
23.	Dr.P.M.V.Rao	Member
24.	Dr.P.Purushotam	Member
25.	Dr.Y.V.Rao	Member
26.	Dr.N.Srinivasu	Member
27.	Mrs. A. Sharada	Member
28.	Mrs.N.Usha Rani	Member
29.	Mr.Y.R.Tagore	Member
30.	Mr.A.Leelamohan Rao	Member Secretary

### REPORT

At the outset the Vice-Chancellor Prof.M.S.C.Bose welcomed all the members and then introduced new members of the reconstituted Academic Council. All the external members were presented with bouquets.

Then the Vice-Chancellor moved a resolution placing on record the appreciation of the Academic Council for the services rendered by the former Vice-Chancellor Dr. V. Govardhana Rao as Chairman of the Academic Council as well as the Vice-Chancellor in taking many new initiatives for improving the University. The resolution included appreciation for the services rendered by the external members Prof.N. SivaPrasad, Dr.G.S.Raju.

Then the Agenda was taken up for discussion

#### **1. Agenda for information**

##### **Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting**

The Vice-Chancellor invited suggestions of the members for modifications if any to the draft minutes, of the meeting held on 19.06.2012. As there were no comments or suggestions the draft minutes circulated to the members was deemed to have been approved.

#### **2. Agenda items for approval**

##### **I.Revision of B.Tech Curriculum**

Dr.Seetharamanjaneyulu said that it is proposed to revise existing B.Tech curriculum, structure and regulations for 2013-2014 admitted batch. Director, Academics has expressed that R13 has been improvised compared with existing



curriculum by offering seminar, mini projects and including more minor electives. Choice based credit system (CBCS) is implemented in the curriculum. All the courses in the programmes cater to the needs of employability or entrepreneurship or tend to enrich skills. The feedback from various stake holders including Students, Employers, Teachers, Alumni, and Parents was carefully reviewed and recommended by BoS for design of R13 B.Tech Curriculum.

**Outcome:** The B.Tech (R13) Curriculum, structure and regulations of various programmes is approved.

### **I. Introduction of new Programme - B.Tech in Agriculture Engineering from the Academic year 2013-14**

Director (Admissions) has explained the need of launching B.Tech Agriculture Engineering program and its prospects in the long run. He has presented a detailed report about the programme and about the discussions they had made with various industries. The program is floated to support farming community in the region through technology transfer by developing farm implements, soil management, etc.

HoD, Mechanical Engineering has presented the structure of B.Tech Agriculture Engineering Programme which follows Choice based credit system (CBCS) with R13 regulations. The contents were reviewed and recommended by BoS for approval.

**Outcome:** The B.Tech Agriculture Engineering programme along with its Curriculum and Structure is approved.

### **II. Admissions**

Dr. R.Venkat Nath, Director (Admissions) said for the academic year 2013-14 VSAT was conducted on line from 14.04.2013 to 20.04.2013 at 15 centers in the State and at Imphal, Manipur on 19.05.2013 and at Kathmandu (Nepal) on 25.05.2013. The results and the ranks were announced on 06.05.2013 at 12:00 noon by the Vice-Chancellor of the University. Counseling for admissions began on 15.05.2013. As on 25.06.2013, the total number of students admitted into B.Tech programmes inclusive of all branches were 952. The class work will commence from 03<sup>rd</sup> July, 2013 for the 1<sup>st</sup> year B.Tech. students.

He informed the members that there was good response for admission into ECE and CSE branches. He stated that the response for admission into B.Tech (Agriculture Engineering) was also very encouraging and put the number of admissions at 19 as on date in that programme. He gave details of admissions as on date branch-wise and expressed satisfaction.

Regarding PG admissions Dr.R.Venkatanadh informed the members that to attract meritorious students to join PG programmes a fee waiver scheme was offered to the



GATE qualified candidates. He explained the scheme in detail. 8 GATE qualified candidates registered themselves till that time.

### **III. Results**

The Controller of Examinations Dr.P.M.V Rao read out the details of the results.

### **IV. Faculty Recruitment**

The Vice-Chancellor informed the members that faculty recruitment was done in the month of May/June, 2013 duly inviting applications from eligible candidates through a notification published in the news papers and a copy placed in the university's website. Eligible candidates were invited to appear for a written test in the first instance and give a demo and face interview before the University Selection Committee which included external experts. In case of urgent need, candidates whose resumes were available with the Heads of Department were called for a written test and interview and successful candidates were given adhoc/temporary appointment subject to ratification by the University Selection Committee. In order to recruit candidates who studied at IITs and NITs a committee headed by the Vice-Chancellor visited the IITs and recruited faculty with the help of the Placement Cells of the IITs.

The Vice-Chancellor said that there was good response and the candidates interviewed were shortlisted based on merit. Quality and competence were given importance even during interview.

The members were told that 62 candidates were selected in all and appointment letters were sent to all of them and 14 candidates joined already. Out of 62 recruited, 18 were Ph.Ds and 31 were M.Techs from IITs / NITs.

Dr.B. Seetharamanjaneyulu told that the course was jointly offered by the Departments of CSE and ECE and the faculty of these two departments would handle classes for the present.

At this stage Mr. D. Ramakrishna wanted to know how many faculty members left the institution. Dr.V.M.Rao, Director, DET informed that only 7 faculty left during this academic year. When asked about the number of Ph.D holders he replied that 24 per cent of the faculty were possessing Ph.D.

Mr. D. Ramakrishna suggested to recruit faculty returning from other countries. Dr.V.M.Rao told that one faculty returning from Germany and another faculty returning from USA were expected to join the University soon.

### **V. Workshops, Conferences organized**

The Vice-Chancellor informed the members that the University had been encouraging the departments to organize at least one national / international workshop / conference every year. He said sufficient budget was being provided by the University while the departments were advised to seek funds from the DST and



other government departments. He gave the details of workshops/ conferences organized by various departments during last year.

He informed further that the departments were encouraged to arrange guest lectures from academia as well as industry professionals.

At this stage Dr.Sanathi Swaroop asked whether the benefit arising out of such workshops and conferences was being measured. Dr. B. Seetharamanjaneyulu told that the students were very much benefited because the topics selected were such that they were not in the curriculum and hence not covered in the regular classes. Mr.G.Sridhar asked whether participation in the workshops and conferences was not optional.

The Vice-Chancellor said that recently the Library organized a workshop in which 161 Librarians from various Engineering colleges across the State participated. Dr. S.Krupanidhi informed the members that a Special Training programme was conducted by the Department of Biotechnology on Immunology Techniques with the funds provided by the DBT and faculty from different colleges from all over the country participated. He said that SV University reconducted that programme again and that the students of Vignan University took up dissertation on the said theme.

At this stage Dr.K. Babu Rao intervened and pointed out that the question was whether any matrix was developed to measure the benefit from these workshops and conferences.

Dr. Sanathi swaroop said the benefit for the participants and the organizers should be measured.

Dr.V.M.Rao told that the feedback had been collected.

Dr.K.Babu Rao asked whether the feedback was collected in a form that would enable for further analysis. He agreed that it would not be possible to measure all benefits but technical advantage could certainly be measured.

## **VI. Projects received from DST / DBT**

Dr.K.V.Radha Kishan gave details of the project proposals submitted to DST and DBT for funding. He said that till then four projects were sanctioned and some more were in the pipeline. He stated that the faculty who submitted the proposals were invited by the DST for scrutiny of the projects. In some cases, certain suggestions were made for further improvement. In all such cases the suggestions were followed and the revised project proposals were submitted.

## **VII. DST meetings organized**

The Vice-Chancellor informed the members that the University was proud of hosting two PAC meetings of the DST. He said that the objective of hosting them was to provide an opportunity to the faculty to understand how a project proposal would be



reviewed so that they learn how to write a proposal effectively. The occasion also provided opportunity to interact with eminent scientists.

Dr. K. Radha Kishan, Director, R & D informed that the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Programme Advisory Committee on Atmospheric Sciences, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, New Delhi was hosted by the University from 29<sup>th</sup> November to 01<sup>st</sup> December, 2012. Eminent scientists and professors came from prestigious institutes like IIT – Delhi, Vikram Sarabhai Space Center, Andhra University, Calcutta University, SRM University, DST and various CSIR laboratories around the country. Several Principal Investigators working on various DST supported projects from different Universities and reputed Institutions participated the meeting and presented the status of their projects to the Committee Members. Vignan University also arranged guest lectures on Atmospheric Sciences on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 with eminent professors attending the meet. The Convener – Secretary of the meeting Dr. Sanjeeva Rao, Advisor at DST, New Delhi gave a presentation on the schemes available for research scientists in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. A committee headed by Dr. K.V. Radha Kishan, Director, R&D organized the meeting.

#### **Second meeting of DST, Women Technology Park**

Dr. A. Srinivasulu, Professor, ECE and Convenor of the Organising Committee gave details of the second PAC meeting of the Women Technology Park, a wing of DST hosted on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Dr. Vinita Sharma, Scientist-G, Chairman of DST Shobhana Bhaskaran, Gopi Krishna, DST officials, Dr. O.N. Tiwari, Dr. Ramesh Rawal, Dr. Kumud Kanna subject experts were on the panel. 15 Principal Investigators presented their research & its findings. The Chancellor, Dr. K. Ramamurthy Naidu, Vice-Chancellor Dr. M.S.C. Bose, Director, DET, Dr. V. Madhusudhan Rao, HoDs and faculty of Vignan Group of Institutions attended the session. Dr. A. Srinivasulu organized the meeting.

Mr. D. Ramakrishna asked how the faculty members would identify the real challenges and present problems for the purpose of preparing project proposals. He suggested that the University should call industry professionals to make a presentation of the problems the industry was confronted with. He suggested that faculty and students should also visit the industry, stay there for a few days to get exposure and identify the problems. The Vice-Chancellor agreed to depute the faculty to industry for this purpose.

#### **VIII. Faculty Development Programme in Communicative Skills for selected faculty members**

Dr. P. Purushotham, Training Officer reported that a Faculty Development Programme on Functional English was organized in collaboration with a Hyderabad based training organization called Metamorphosis. He stated that 65 faculty



members of the University, were participating in the 6-day programme, covering a range of topics like Phonetics, Functional Vocabulary, basics of written communication, correspondence besides non-verbal cues like body language. He said that the feedback was very encouraging.

Mr.G.Sreedhar reminded that as per the NASSCOM report, 47 percent of the engineering graduates were not employable because they lacked basic technical knowledge. He pointed out that there was a paradigm shift presently from services to solutions and the focus should be more on technical knowledge. The industry was not able to secure adequate number of employable candidates from top colleges. He advised the faculty to interact with industry and customize the requirements. He informed that there were case studies available online and suggested that the faculty should read them.

Mr. D. Ramakrishna also referred to the recent meeting of the CII. He also pointed out that the paradigm shift from services to products should be recognised by the university faculty. In the changing scenario, Communications Skills might help the students to enter the industry but they would not be sufficient to sustain them there. Communication skills were required for marketing but technical knowledge was essential for product-making. He advised against overemphasis on communication skills at the cost of technical knowledge. Director, DET Dr.V.M. Rao stated that technical skills relevant to the market demand were also being imparted through add- on certification programmes with the help of industry experts. Mr.G.Sridhar suggested that the students should become technically savvy and they should be provided with industry experience.

#### **IX. Faculty Induction Programme**

Mrs.A.Sharada, Associate Professor in English and former Training Officer reported that Faculty Induction Programme had been an annual feature of the institution for the last 7 years. It was mandatory for all the newly recruited faculty members. They would be introduced to pedagogy, psychodynamics and classroom management and various aspects of the multi-dimensional role of a teacher. Micro-teaching sessions would be held to provide guided practice in teaching methodology. She said that for the recently recruited faculty members a 10-day Induction programme would commence on 02.07.2013. The sessions would be handled by the in-house as well as external experts. This would be followed up by intensive practice sessions at the departments.

#### **X. Reconstitution of Apex Bodies**

Then the Registrar informed the members that all the apex bodies of the University had been reconstituted last month as per the UGC guidelines and read out the names of the members of the Board of Management, Academic Council, Finance Committee and the Planning & Monitoring Board.



## **XI. IUCEE workshops**

The Vice-Chancellor informed the members that the University was a member of IUCEE and was conducting workshops every year. He said that Dr.V.M. Rao, the Coordinator, IUCEE would attend a meeting at Pune on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2013. Dr.B. Seetharamanjaneyulu, Director (Academic) gave a brief report on the IUCEE workshops organised last year at the university. He said these workshops helped the teachers to update their domain knowledge and also provided an opportunity to establish contact with expert academia for future guidance and interaction. Mr.G.Sridhar suggested that there should be on-line follow up programmes.

## **XII. New design of Question Paper**

The Vice-Chancellor informed that a new design of question paper would be followed from the current academic year. It would be introduced in the I year B.Tech and would be progressively followed up year after year for all batches. For the present 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students there would be no change. Mr.A. Leelamohan Rao, Registrar explained the rationale of change highlighting the points that the design specified weightage to content, learning outcomes, forms of questions and difficulty level. The examiner would set the question paper as per design preparing his own three-dimensional blue print. There would be one mark and two marks questions without choice. The new design would help wider coverage of syllabus, elimination of chance and testing of various learning abilities. Dr.K. Babu Rao stated that this would help orient teaching as per learning outcomes and would meet the requirements of Washington accord gradually.

## **XIII. Scholarships sanctioned**

Dr.P.M.V Rao Controller of Examinations explained the provisions of the Scheme of Fee Waivers and scholarships to the meritorious students that had been in operation in University, since 2010. He gave details of the fee waivers / scholarships sanctioned for the year 2011-12 as follows

44 students of B.Tech. (2009 Batch)	- Rs. 25,69,000/-
30 students of B.Tech. (2010 Batch)	- Rs.14,24,000/-
54 students of B.Tech. (2011 Batch)	- Rs. 17,10,000/-
12 students of PG Programmes	- Rs. 3, 70,000/-
<b>Total:</b>	<b>- Rs. 60,73,000/-</b>

Scheme along with sanction orders was placed by the Academic Council for information



#### **XIV. Academic Audit Report and Incentives to faculty**

Dr.K.V.Radha Kishan, Director, R&D and Chairman of the Academic Audit Committee, conducted the Academic Audit explained the methodology of academic audit. He stated that the Committee categorized the faculty into 5 groups.

- (1) Professors with administrative functions
- (2) Professors without administrative functions
- (3) Associate Professors with administrative functions
- (4) Associate Professors without administrative functions
- (5) Assistant Professors

He explained that the performance was broadly assessed under 3 functions viz. Teaching, Research and Administrative. On the basis of the performance assessed, the faculties were awarded the following grades. (a) Incentive grade (b) Appreciative grade (c) Below expectation grade (d) Alert grade (e) Normal grade. The committee consisting of the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Director, DET, Chairman AAC and Finance Officer considered the recommendation of the Academic Audit Committee and recommended cash incentives as per a scale. 29 faculty members were sanctioned incentives amounting to the tune of Rs.7,52,000/- for the year 2010-11. Copy of Academic Audit Report for 2010-11 report and the process. The incentives offered were placed before the Academic Council for information.

Mr.D.Ramakrishna asked whether the appraisal of performance assess the practical knowledge and skills of the faculty members in handling the equipment and machines or would test their theoretical knowledge alone. Dr.Radha Kishan clarified that the research component of the parameter would take care of that aspect. Dr.K. Babu Rao suggested to include Peer evaluation also as a component of the appraisal scheme. Dr.V.M.Rao stated that appropriate matrix should be developed.

#### **XV. Placements**

The Vice-Chancellor informed the members that University has been consistently maintaining good placement record. Mr. E. Srinivas, Director, Placements gave details of placements secured during the year 2012-13. He stated that 434 were placed by 32 companies most of which visited the University for conducting placements / recruitments. TCS which placed 110 students was the major recruiter. As on 24.06.2013 the total number of students placed were 434 out of 737 eligible students from B.Tech., MBA and MCA put together. The details of placements were placed before the Academic Council for information

Mr.G.Sridhar asked for company-wise details of placements.

He wanted how many companies belonged IT & ITES and Core engineering. The Director, Placements read out the details. He said another 40 to 50 students were likely to be placed during this year.



Mr.D. Ramakrishna informed that CII considered three issues - Opportunity, skills and aspiration of the students. He stated that the CII observed that opportunities and aspirations were too high but the skills were not high. He advised that realistic guidance should be given to the students. The Director, Placements informed that Aspiring Minds conducted a test recently to assess various skills of the students and gave a detailed report making student mapping based on their scores in all aspects. This would be shared with the students to make them realize their strength and weakness. A workshop was planned to improve the skills of the students. He said that he was meeting HR personnel and Technical staff of various companies and interacting with them on their perspectives and sharing the information with the HoDs.

Mr.D.Ramakrishna suggested that the results of the test should be shared with the parents also so that they had clear understanding of the capacities of their children without being too ambitious and unrealistic in setting goals for them. He also wanted the Director, Placements to take feedback from the companies on the performance of the students placed with them from the university.

Mr. Sridhar advised the HoDs to tell the students very honestly what they were good at and what they not were good at. He suggested to explore the possibilities of having on-line examination for the students to assess their capabilities.

#### **XVI. Convocation**

The Vice-Chancellor informed the members that the first Convocation of the University would be held on 27.07.2013. The Controller of Examinations stated that around 1200 students who passed out B.Tech, M.Tech, MBA and MCA exam would be receiving degrees. Justice N.V.Ramana, Judge, High Court of Andhra Pradesh would be the Chief Guest. Mr. Ramakrishna suggested that the names of the awardees be placed on the website. He also enquired about the security features. The Vice-Chancellor informed that there were about 16 security features incorporated in the design and printing of the original degrees. He informed that one gold medal for the best performer for all branches put together would be awarded. He also told that it was proposed to give away one silver medal branch-wise for the meritorious students. Mr.G. Sridhar suggested that each branch may institute a medal since it was a university. Dr. Santhi Swaroop suggested to have one university level medal besides branch-wise medals. He suggested that the University might start with a gold medal only and later on extend to silver and bronze medals. Dr.A. Srinivasulu wanted to know whether the grades awarded were on absolute merit or relative merit. The Controller clarified that it was absolute merit only.



## **XVII. Results of Outgoing Batches**

The Controller of Examinations read out the details of results of the outgoing batches of B.Tech students. Results of the passed out batches of B.Tech. (2009-13), MBA (2009-11, 2010-12), MCA (2009-12), M.Tech. (2009-11, 2010-12) were placed for approval of the Academic Council. The results of MBA (2011-13), MCA (2010-13) would be announced within a week and would be circulated among all the members of the Academic Cell for approval by mail. These results would be placed before the Board of Management for further approval in the second week of July, 2013, so that Degrees could be awarded during convocation on 27.07.2013. The actual number might marginally change due to revaluation / recounting etc., The Academic Council was requested to approve the lists subject to marginal variations. They were approved by the Academic Council with permission to make required modifications after announcing the results pending. The modified results should be placed before the BoM for approval for award of Degrees during Convocation.

### **3. Views of External Members**

**The Vice-Chancellor requested the external members to express their views on the academic initiatives to be taken**

**a) Mr.D.Ramakrishna** told that Industry paradigm had been changing. Manufacturing sector would grow, particularly the electrical and electronics industries. Government policies were also encouraging. There would be new opportunities of employment in core sectors. Cloud computing had gained importance IT focus would also shift to Finance sector. Instrumentation would emerge as one of the important areas. Electronic instrumentation would take a lead.

He suggested to organize a national seminar on Trends of Industry and curriculum should gear up to the future needs of knowledge and skills. In MBA, industrial management and innovation management would become the focus. There was need to look into the need for MCA programme. The students of MCA were not performing well in industry. It might be due to limitation of Mathematics.

**b) Mr.G.Sridhar** stated that Marketing has been orienting towards digital marketing, and social marketing etc., HRM focus was shifting to operational role, C-level executive role. He suggested raising the level of standards and connecting to the industry for identifying the needs. He further advised the university to set up an incubation centre. Major US companies recruit students and keep them. Mobile users were increasing by leaps and bounds. The applications were changing. Such areas should identified and incubation centres started to incubate new ideas.

**c) Dr. Santhi Swarup** made a video presentation. He discussed the needs of the future, leveraging of technology, Massive use of on-line resources, studying on-line courses like Artificial Intelligence from Stanford University and Learning modes of Smart Phone Generation. He advised the faculty members to help the students

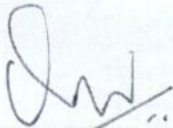


make use of National Knowledge Network watch NPTC lectures and have synergic fusion of teaching methods. He suggested some tracks for future: Sensor Networks, Bio-material, prognostics, embedded intelligence, Robotics, Flexible Electronics, Cyber Security, Brain-a-box etc.

d) **Dr.K.Babu Rao** referred to the Washington Accord and the need to develop outcome-based curriculum and Mapping of Programme objectives. He advised the Chairman, BoS to study outcomes suggested by ABET. He reminded the members that NBA allocated majority of the marks for programme outcomes and outcome-based curriculum. He emphasized that every faculty member should explicitly write down learning outcomes for each lesson for which they should understand Bloom's taxonomy.

e) **Mrs. A. Sharada** briefly talked about the Workshop she attended at IIT, Chennai on "Self Awareness & Higher Goals in Education" and emphasized the need to introduced credit based electives to deal with behavioral aberrations of students and remedial measures based on psychology and Ethics.

Finally the Vice-Chancellor conveyed his thanks to all members for active participation in the discussions and giving valuable suggestions. The meeting was then concluded.



**REGISTRAR**

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